

WYCOMBE CAN MAKE HISTORY TOMORROW!

WYCOMBE Wanderers, one of the leading clubs in amateur football for the last five years, have their best ever chance of reaching the magical third round of the F.A. Cup when they take on Bournemouth at Loakes Park tomorrow (Saturday).

This match, only the fourth time Wycombe have reached the second round in a history spanning some 90 years, could be the one to put them into round three with the possibility of a meeting with a Football League, Division One club.

Few amateurs have done it before and those who immediately spring to mind are Hendon, who drew 0-0 at St. James' Park, Newcastle, last season before losing the replay, Sutton United, 5-0 losers against Leeds United and Tooting who held Nottingham Forest at Sandy Lane, Forest later going on to lift the Trophy at Wembley.

Wycombe have been in this situation before. In 1957 they reached round two and lost at

Watford 5-1, and then in '63 they fell 3-1 at home to Gravesend and Northfleet. Last season, of course, they beat Fourth Division Newport in the first round proper 3-1 before going down 1-3 at home to Peterborough.

WHAT CHANCE?

But just what are Wycombe's chances tomorrow and just how good are Bournemouth? The man best qualified to answer

"Goalkeeper Kevin Charlton was faultless. I was very impressed with him and his handling and reaction saves were absolutely first class. John Delaney was beaten in the air a few times but John is the type of player who puts these things behind him and gets on with the game. With Hague, he forms a solid partnership at the back."

Brian felt Wanderers had a "formidable task" in front of them but he added when asked to compare Bournemouth with

week. "Obviously I would love to play in this game, but there is no point in playing if I am not going to be 100 per cent. The final decision is likely to be mine but at this stage I can't tell if the ankle will have healed."

Keith is likely to test out his ankle ligaments on Saturday morning and if unfit, his place will go to Dave Bullock, an admirable replacement. Dave's competitive spirit would be an added bonus on the day.

The only other question is

problems in their side. Their main strength appears to be in defence where John Delaney, a former Wycombe captain and centre half, has established himself as a regular player. Delaney's inclusion, of course, adds a touch of spice to this already intriguing encounter.

As a player with Wycombe he gained the respect and his ability in the air at set pieces is still a danger. Many of the Wanderers players know him of old, which will be of advantage. But

John O'Rourke, a seasoned professional who knows all the tricks in the book.

In some matches this term, Wycombe have failed to dominate and handed over the initiative to the opponents. They cannot afford to do that tomorrow and much will depend on whether they can combine the necessary chasing and harassing tactics with their normal distribution.

Unlike Peterborough last year, Bournemouth are a side struggling to maintain consistency in Division Three — and also struggling to stay clear of the relegation zone. Added to that, a good Cup run is imperative to the club, whose financial position is weak at present.

I feel Wycombe have a real chance of success tomorrow. They have shown in their two previous matches their undoubted flair for attacking football and if the breaks go their way, their name could go into the third round draw on Saturday evening. But I also think they will have to be at their very best to beat the professionals.

ARRANGEMENTS

The arrangements for spectators tomorrow are as follows: The gates will open at 1.15 p.m. and the club urge supporters to get to the ground well in advance of the 3 p.m. kick-off. Turnstiles will be open to take both cash and tickets and will be clearly marked "Cash only" and "Tickets only." Those paying cash to go into the enclosure and any stand or enclosure ticket holders should use the top gates, where two turnstiles will be in operation — one for cash, one for tickets.

Anyone who has a car park ticket can enter the ground from the car park entrance but the club have pointed out that only those with parking passes will be allowed to park there. No-one without the necessary pass will be allowed in.

All ground tickets and cash payments will be taken at the Queen Alexandra Road and Loakes Road turnstiles. The two turnstiles in Loakes Park will cater for adults and will be for cash customers only. All turnstiles in Queen Alexandra Road will be ticket only, except two which will take O.A.F. and Children payments.

F.A. Cup, second round preview by STUART EARP

these questions is Wanderers' manager Brian Lee. At the time of the draw, he rated the Blues' chances as 50-50. Since then he has had the advantage of watching Bournemouth in action in their 1-0 defeat at Plymouth last Saturday.

He said, "Although it was not a particularly good game, Bournemouth showed they were a competent side in all departments, although they lack confidence at times.

Newport and Peterborough from last year — "I would liken them more to Newport. We must not allow them to play and we must not give them time or space. We must pressure and make life difficult for them."

Wycombe have only one injury worry for the game tomorrow. Keith Mead, badly injured when Tony Gibson late tackled him in the Ilford game a fortnight ago, is still not sure to be fit. He told me earlier in the

who will play in midfield. Mick Holifield and Howard Kennedy pick themselves but the final place will go to either Terry Reardon or Dave Alexander. Both have had good games recently. Reardon especially against Swindon and I expect him to get the vote. His greater experience of this type of soccer could be the deciding factor, in which case Alexander is the probable substitute.

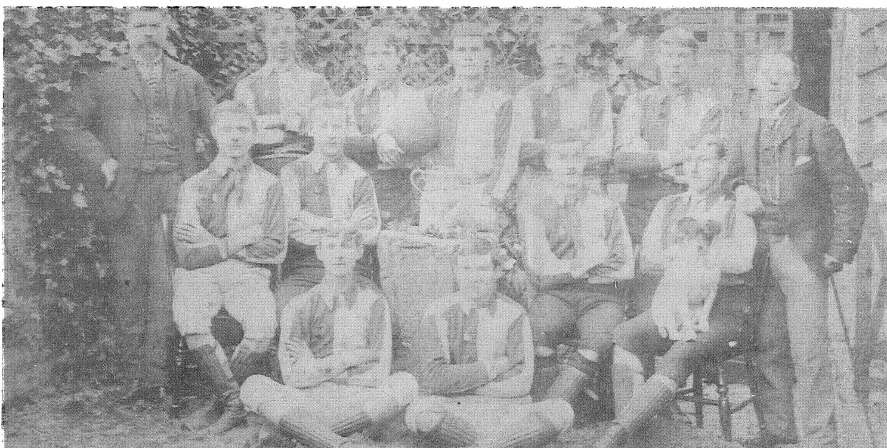
Bournemouth have no injury

Delaney will also remember his former colleagues and has no doubt briefed his own players on their capabilities.

Delaney is partnered by Neil Hague, the other six foot centre back who will form a difficult barrier to break down. In midfield, former Norwich first teamer Trevor Howard is a player to be watched and it is the midfield department that could prove decisive.

Upfront, many eyes will be on

FLASHBACK TO 1889-90



This photograph of Wycombe Wanderers F.C. taken in the 1889-1890 season — only five years after the club was formed — was sent to the 'Free Press' by Mr. G. Butler of 26, Desborough Street, High Wycombe.

Wanderers past and present



Wycombe Wanderers pictured before their league match against Clapton at Loakes Park last month. Back row (from left to right): Terry Reardon, Keith Mead, Keith Searle, John Maskell, Alan Phillips, Howard Kennedy, Steve Perrin. Front row (from left to right): Tony Horseman, Dave Alexander, Paul Griffiths, Gary Hand, Mick Holifield.